

APPROVED MINUTES
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 26, 2010

Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Boardroom 2nd floor
9601 Groh Road

Call to Order by Supervisor Loftus at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Loftus, Clerk O'Connor, Treasurer Van Os, Trustees Frucci, Johnson, Kantz
and Ranka Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations:

1. Supervisor Loftus introduced Ms. Roberta Urbani representing DTE Energy, Trenton Channel Plant to speak about a cooperative venture between DTE and Grosse Ile Township to help beautify and enhance the landscaping and wildlife habitat at the corner of Grosse Ile Parkway and W. Jefferson.
2. Jennifer Coleman Hesson, a candidate for 33 rd District Court Judge was invited to introduce herself and present an overview of her qualifications.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA 10-016:

1. Minutes of April 12, 2010 Regular Meeting
2. Check Register dated April 23, 2010
3. State Trunkline Application and Permit for IslandFest Billboard

Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion approved 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **10-017** Motion Frucci, second Van Os, To authorize the creation of an interim Ad Hoc Off-Island Entryway Improvement Committee consisting of five (5) members to represent Grosse Ile Township in negotiations with representatives from the communities of Trenton and Riverview and representatives from the Grosse Ile Bridge Co., DTE Energy and Wayne County, for the sole purpose of planning and recommending improvements to the off-island entryways to Grosse Ile.

B) To appoint the following members, Pamela Frucci, Brian Loftus, Ron Baker, Douglas Thiel and Roberta Urbani, to the interim Ad Hoc Off-Island Entryway Improvement Committee with the duration of terms limited to the duration and completion of the project to research, plan and recommend off-island entryway improvements to the Beautification Committee and the Township Board for their approval.

Motion approved 7-0

2. **10-018** Motion Frucci, second Johnson, to approve the name modification request from the Beautification Committee to be known as and officially recognized as the Island Beautification Committee effective April 26, 2010. Motion approved 7-0.
3. **10-019** Motion Frucci, second Johnson, upon the recommendation of the Cable Commission and the Cable Commission Liaison, to approve the removal of Robert Buckley from the Cable Commission effective April 26, 2010 and to advertise the vacancy. *Trustee Frucci commented that Mr. Buckley has served long and well for many years, but has been unable to participate of late. Trustee Ranka thanked Mr. Buckley for his service to the community.*

4. **10-020** Supervisor Loftus entered into the record a Proclamation recognizing the week of May 2 through May 8, 2010, as Municipal Clerks Week, and further to extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Ute O'Connor, and her staff and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.
5. **10-021** Motion Van Os, second O'Connor, based upon the recommendation of the DPS Commission motion to approve the contract compensation adjustment of \$7,479.00 (approximately 2.158%) for the fiscal year 2010-2011 for United Water's contract services at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This increases the monthly amount from \$28,892.52 to \$29,512.77.

Motion defeated: 1-6 (Van Os voting yes)

6. **10-022** Motion by Treasurer Van Os, second by Trustee Johnson to award the Dust Control Services Contract to D & D Emulsions, Incorporated for the 2010 season, based upon Department of Public Services (DPS) Commission Approval.

Public Comment: W. Clark, Parke Lane, asked which roads will be treated.

Ayes: 7 Nays: None

Motion approved.

7. **10-023** Motion O'Connor, second Johnson, to approve the following ballot language for Millage Renewal for Recreation Program to be placed on the August 3, 2010 ballot:

MILLAGE RENEWAL FOR RECREATION PROGRAM

Shall the previous voted increase in the total tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Grosse Ile Township, .50 mills (\$.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to .4995 mills (\$.4995 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at .4995 mills (\$.4995 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for a period of five (5) years from 2011 through 2015 inclusive, to provide funds for the operation of a Township recreation program, raising an estimated \$295,000 in the first calendar year the millage is levied.

YES _____

NO _____

Motion approved 7-0.

8. **10-024** Motion Johnson, second Van Os, to approve the following ballot language for Millage Renewal for Fire Department Equipment to be placed on the August 3, 2010 ballot:

MILLAGE RENEWAL FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Shall the previous voted increase in the total tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Grosse Ile Township, .50 mills (\$.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to .4995 mills (\$.4995 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at .4995 mills (\$.4995 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for a period of five (5) years from 2011 through 2015 inclusive, to provide funds for the acquiring of fire vehicles and other necessary fire equipment, raising an estimated \$295,000 in the first calendar year the millage is levied.

YES _____

NO _____

Motion approved 7-0.

9. **10-025** Motion Van Os, second O'Connor, to approve the following ballot language for Millage for Bike Path Construction and Maintenance to be placed on the August 3, 2010 ballot:

MILLAGE FOR BIKE PATH CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Shall Grosse Ile Township impose an increase of up to .50 mills (\$.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the total tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for a period of five (5) years from 2011 through 2015 inclusive, to provide funds for the construction and maintenance of bike paths in the Township, which .50 mills increase will raise an estimated \$295,000 in the first year the millage is levied.

YES _____

NO _____

Roll Call Vote: Yes ó Ranka, Van Os, O'Connor, Loftus

No- Kantz, Frucci, Johnson

Motion approved 4-3

NOTE: Finance Director Darznick indicated that based on an Average Taxable Value of \$130,000.00 each millage would cost the homeowner about \$65.00 annually.

Clerk's Report

1. General Update:

BOATERS...Important Immigration Service Information

An I-68 or Nexus card, a part of the "Trusted Traveler" program which means an extensive background check is done before issuing these cards is required for boaters in the waters between Canada and the United States.

- **If** all passengers on the vessel have either card than all can be cleared by phone.
- **If** even just one passenger on the vessel has only a passport, then you will be asked to go to the nearest check point, which is Elizabeth Park Marina to be physically checked out by immigration.
- Immigration requires you have to have one of the two documents (I-68 or Nexus) or you will be delayed for re-entry.
- The cards may be purchased at the bridge or tunnel.

Passports: Although the Department of State previously announced an increase in passport fees expected in March, 2010, it has not been implemented. Anyone needing a passport still has time to apply before the price increases. Call the Clerk's office to schedule an appointment.

Elections: Precinct Delegates deadline to file is May 11th at 4 p.m. in order to have their name appear on the ballot. Filing may be done at the local Clerk's office or with the Wayne County Clerk. Delegate candidates may also file an Affidavit of Identity on Election Day with their Precinct Chairperson as a write-in candidate.

2. Liaison Update:

- a) Recreation ó The Recreation Commission is still accepting input from residents on the Township's Recreation Master Plan by email at recreation @ grosseile.com
- b) Festival- Clerk O'Connor provided an update of the many activities and events scheduled during IslandFest on June 4th, 5th, and 6th.
- c) Zoning Board of Appeals- Clerk O'Connor noted the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals and that the applications that have been received are being reviewed in order to bring a recommendation to the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Treasurer's Report

1. Investment Report and Tax update:

- o For the month of March, Grosse Ile Township had \$9,917,158.00 invested in Certificates of Deposit ranging from .50% to 1.01% with terms ranging from 30-90 days.
- o For the month of March, the balance of the MBIA Class investment pool is \$286,717.00 which is earned investment interest of \$ 344.00 at a rate of .17%
- o \$1,774,570.00 is the amount in the sweep/investments accounts as of March 31, 2010 earning interest of \$201.00 at a rate of .17%
- o The treasurer's office has completed collecting taxes for the 2009 tax year. All unpaid property taxes are now considered delinquent.
- o Unpaid real property taxes can now only be paid to Wayne County and the township will accept payments for delinquent personal property taxes for Grosse Ile businesses.
- o The treasurer's office is busy compiling year end reports and preparing for the upcoming annual audit.

Trustees Reports

1. Trustee Johnson: Thanked Officer Pelland for recognizing a dangerous situation involving a gas leak over the weekend and taking action to safeguard the area.
2. Trustee Frucci: Reported on her attendance at the Michigan Township Association Capital Reforms Conference on April 19th in Lansing. The MTA Director reported that a public survey was done on trust and faith in government that showed that state and federal levels of government received low grades while 80% of those surveyed were satisfied with local government.

The main topic of the conference was reforms in township government and the fact that revenue statewide is down 43% since 2000.

Mrs. Frucci brought back a lengthy list of proposed reforms being considered by the Governor and the State Legislators to try to solve the budget problems in the state. The public survey indicated there were three areas of budget reform that the general public would tend to support. Those three areas are: a luxury sales tax, state and public employees paying 20% of their health care and a graduated income tax rather than a flat rate tax.

Trustee Frucci also attended the Green Leaders Award Presentation held on Earth Day at the Detroit Yacht Club which honored 16 winners out of 300 nominees, of the Green Leader Award. One of the award recipients was John Hartig, who is the Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Bill Ford also received a Green Leader Award and served as the keynote speaker for the event. Mrs. Frucci commented on how nice it was to see a large number of business and industry leaders in attendance at the event.

Mrs. Frucci also reported that the Cable Commission is working toward revamping their duties and responsibilities and will become known as the Communications Commission in the near future.

3. Trustee Ranka: Announced that there are currently two vacancies on the Planning Commission. One of the vacancies may be filled within the next few weeks; however, that will leave one vacancy without any applicants. If there are any residents interested in making the commitment to serve on the Planning Commission they are urged to submit an application as soon as possible.
4. Trustee Kantz: Update on the upcoming Airport Festival scheduled for the weekend of May 22nd and 23rd which include the following events: Yankee Air Force Motorcycle Rally of approximately 1,000 motorcyclists on Saturday, Duathlon Race on Saturday, Boat Show and Exposition on Saturday and Sunday, Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Yankee Air Force Planes will be available to tour and B-17 and B-25 rides will be available.

Supervisor's Report

1. The All Island Clean Up was held on April 17th with volunteers from area scouting and community groups. Thanks to all those who donated their Saturday morning.
2. The schools held their very successful Mega Million Gala fundraiser at the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club which was a great time for all who attended.
3. Opportunity Grosse Ile opened their "Welcome Home Center" on Macomb Street this past weekend which will serve as a combination tourism board and Chamber of Commerce was very well attended. The grand opening was followed by an Island wide Realtor Open House and tours of the Grosse Ile Public Schools.
4. The old Atofina Plant in Riverview has been demolished and the process of cleaning up the site is underway. There are no immediate plans for development.
5. Comcast has announced the conversion to digital cable requiring residents to contact them to obtain a free digital converter for their televisions. The conversion is expected to be complete by May 25th.

6. The first floor conference room at township hall is undergoing some repairs due to water damage to one of the walls. Repairs are expected to take a few weeks.
7. Nationwide Census return rates have exceeded the 2000 return levels. If residents did not fill out and return a census form a census representative will be making a personal visit.
8. To date there has no unfavorable responses to the request for public comments about the installation of a security camera at Macomb Commons in order to monitor the area for vandalism. The issue will be brought to the Board for a decision at an upcoming meeting.

Township Manager's Report

1. Safe Routes to School Project: All the paperwork and plan amendments have been submitted. Plans will be posted on the township website when finalized and letters to affected residents informing them of the project progress and notify them of the availability to view the plans. There will also be an Open House with the Township Manager and the Project Engineer scheduled in the near future to answer questions.
2. There will be an American Cancer Society Relay for Life event on May 1st at the Young Patriots Park in Riverview. Public participation is encouraged.
3. The Water Treatment Plant Feasibility review and reports are ready and meetings will be scheduled with the cities of Riverview and Trenton to sort through them.

Public Comment:

1. W. Clarke, Parke Lane, asked about legal fees on the approved check register and voiced concern about the percentage of Fluoride in the drinking water and whether it comes from China.
Labor Attorney payment of \$41.00 and \$2,199.00 to T. Galligan for sewer project litigation.
2. R. Zelasko, Blauvelt, thanked the Board and the DPS Road Committee for the annual dust control program.
3. Trustee Frucci announced that a picture of the organizing families of the Safe Routes to School group recently posed for a group picture at the Grosse Ile signboard on Parkway which has been submitted to a Family Circle Magazine contest entitled "My Home Town".

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Trustee Johnson, second Treasurer Van Os.
Motion approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk